Share of POL in imports

26. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the growth in imports during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) what had been the share of POL in these imports; and

(c) the growth in imports during the first six months of 1999-2000 and share of POL in total imports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the growth in imports in dollar terms has been as follows:—

	Import growth rate (%)
1997-98	6.0
1998-99*	7.9

*Provisional

(b) The Share of POL in these imports in 1997-98 is 19.7% and that in 1998-99 is 14.0%.

(c) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) provisional data, the growth in imports in dollar terms during the first six months of 1999-2000 is 5.6% and share of POL in total imports is 19.8%.

Export A National Priority

27. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export is a national priority and this sector would be unshakled from bureaucratic control;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ensure this; and

(c) since when will these steps be effective?